



## ***Spotlight on Excellence***

TO: Dr Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Robin Desmond, Chief Academic Officer. *Rob Desmond*

DATE: August 17, 2020

RE: *Spotlight on Excellence*  
Lowell Public Schools Summer Programming

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The *Spotlight on Excellence* presentation on will feature the 2020 Summer Program offerings. The following is an outline of the presentation:

1. Carolyn Rocheleau, Coordinator for Special Programs, will provide a brief overview of this year's summer offerings and programming and introduce a few of the summer program administrators.
2. Christine Adams, administrator of the summer Special Education program will share the highlights of the summer programs (both in person and remote learning).
3. Lisa Tenczar, administrator of the summer Early Childhood program at the Lincoln School will share her perspective on the in-person programming this summer.

During the summer of 2020, the Lowell Public Schools provided more than 3,000 students access to free in-person, hybrid and remote learning options. This is more than double the number of students served in summer 2019.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, options for in-school, in-person learning was targeted to our high need populations. We were able to offer a 4-week special education program, a 6-week program for preschool students, and a 4-week English learning program to students at Lowell High School. In total, nearly 200 students received in-person learning experiences this summer.

We are grateful to the staff, families and students who contributed to the collective success of the summer programming. There was access to sufficient PPE materials and the custodial staff went above and beyond to ensure that classrooms were fogged several times per day.

For our remote learning programs, the summer gave LPS teachers the opportunity to establish their virtual classroom and refine their teaching strategies. Our students had a great time

zooming into live classes with LPS teachers. We were able to offer enriching programming to support both the social emotional and academic needs of our students.

Our popular IDEA Camp was able to take the curriculum on-line and offered richly STEAM focused programming to students in grades 5-12. The one-week sessions on coding, microbits, drones, video game design, architect studio and more were enhanced by adding the arts with offerings such as theater and painting with perspective.

For those middle school and high school students that needed to buy back attendance hours or for those who were in need of repeating a core subject, the district teachers worked with the APEX platform to provide the required course materials.

In summary, the summer of 2020 was challenging and rewarding for our students and staff. We are confident that we were able to reach a good percentage of students and we were able to provide a strong model of in-person learning to help inform the District's Reopening Plan.

We thank the School Committee for their support and interest in summer learning and look forward to continued support for all upcoming "out of school time" initiatives.